

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~From heretofore~~ Heretofore, curved glass sheets having various shapes or curvatures have been used as automobile windows. Various kinds of methods have been proposed as the method for producing that sort of curved glass sheets. Among these methods, a method ~~to~~ make for press-bending in a heating furnace is suited to realize a complicated shape, such as a shape having a vertical section substantially like the letter S, or a deeply bent shape, since this method can bend a glass sheet in a high temperature state. For example, JP-A-1-52628 discloses a technique that a hollow member having a box-like shape is used as a lower mold to put a glass sheet thereon and that air is supplied into the hollow member to raise the pressure in the hollow member to push the entire area of a rear side of the glass sheet against an upper mold by the air pressure. This technique is said to be able to easily realize a complicated shape since it is possible to uniformly pressurize the rear side of the glass sheet in a wide range.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

However, since the above-mentioned conventional technique utilizes both ~~[[of]]~~ press-bending and air-pressuring to instantly bend a substantially flat glass sheet in a desired complicated shape or a desired deeply bent shape, this conventional technique has a problem in that the glass sheet has an optical distortion created in several portions or has a crease formed in a surface. That sort of problem is caused because a substantially flat glass sheet is greatly bent in a short time period by press-bending and air-pressuring. Although that sort of

problem may be avoided by providing a sufficient time period for bending, a new problem that the productivity of curved glass sheets lowers is caused in this case.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention is proposed to ~~dissolve~~ avoid the problems of the conventional technique. It is an object of the present invention to provide a method and an apparatus for bending a glass sheet, which are capable of producing, with high productivity, a glass sheet having such a complicated shape or a deeply bent shape that is difficult to be realized by the conventional technique, or which are capable of rapidly making preliminary bending.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention provides a method for bending a glass sheet, wherein a preliminarily heated and softened glass sheet is pressed in a desired shape by an upper mold and a frame unit, the upper mold having a bending surface facing downward in a substantially vertical direction, and the frame unit having a bending surface facing upward in the substantially vertical direction so as to be engageable with the bending surface of the upper mold, comprising the steps of putting the heated and softened glass sheet on the bending surface of the frame unit to preliminarily bend the glass sheet by gravity before pressing the glass sheet by the upper mold and the frame unit, and using means for controlling ~~[[an]]~~ the amount of preliminary bending to control deformation of the glass sheet caused by the preliminary bending; and pressing the preliminarily bent glass sheet by the upper mold and the frame unit.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a mode of the present invention, it is preferable that the method comprises the steps of dropping the heated and softened glass sheet onto the frame unit to put the glass sheet thereon; conveying the glass sheet to a position just under the upper mold in such a state that the glass sheet is put on the frame unit; and preliminarily bending the glass sheet in a shape ~~approximate to~~ approximating the bending surface of the upper mold by using the means for controlling an amount of preliminary bending to control the deformation of the glass sheet by gravity between just before putting the glass sheet on the frame unit and just before pressing the glass sheet.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a mode of the present invention, it is preferable that the means for controlling ~~[[an]]~~ the amount of preliminary bending comprises a lower mold having the bending surface facing upward in the substantially vertical direction and provided on an inner peripheral side of the frame unit; the bending surface of the lower mold have a plurality of holes formed therein to communicate with an air suction means; whereby air is sucked through the holes by the air suction means to accelerate the preliminary bending of the glass sheet.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a mode of the present invention, it is preferable that the apparatus further comprises means for holding the heated and softened glass sheet onto the frame unit and for dropping the glass sheet on the frame unit to put the glass sheet thereon; and means for conveying the

frame unit with the glass sheet put thereon to a position just under the upper mold; whereby the glass sheet is preliminarily bent ~~the glass sheet~~ in a shape ~~approximate to~~ approximating the bending surface of the upper mold by using the means for controlling an amount of preliminary bending to control the deformation of the glass sheet by gravity between just before putting the glass sheet on the frame unit and just before pressing the glass sheet.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a mode of the present invention, it is preferable that the apparatus further comprises ~~[[an]]~~ air-floating means for supporting the glass sheet in an air-floating fashion; ~~[[a]]~~ positioning means for positioning the glass sheet supported in the air-floating fashion; and ~~[[a]]~~ sticking means to be brought near to the glass sheet from upward for sticking and holding the glass sheet and conveying the glass sheet to a position above the frame unit, ~~the sticking means.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In ~~[[a]]~~ one mode of the present invention, it is preferable that the apparatus further comprises plural ~~kinds of~~ means for controlling ~~[[an]]~~ the amount of preliminary bending, and a controller for selecting a desired means for controlling an amount of preliminary bending according to a type of the glass sheet to be bent.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In [[a]] another mode of the present invention, it is preferable that the means for controlling [[an]] the amount of preliminary bending comprises a lower mold having the bending surface facing upward in the substantially vertical direction and provided on an inner peripheral side of the frame unit; the bending surface of the lower mold have a plurality of holes formed therein to communicate with an air suction means; whereby air is sucked through the holes by the air suction means to accelerate the preliminary bending of the glass sheet.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In [[a]] further mode of the present invention, it is preferable that the means for controlling [[an]] the amount of preliminary bending comprises a heater for heating a desired portion of the glass sheet put on the frame unit, whereby the desired portion of the glass sheet conveyed along with the frame unit is heated by the heater to accelerate the preliminary bending of the glass sheet.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In [[a]] an additional mode of the present invention, it is preferable that the means for controlling [[an]] the amount of preliminary bending comprises [[a]] sticking means with a heater incorporated therein whereby while the heated and softened glass sheet is stuck and held by the sticking means, a desired portion of the glass sheet is heated to accelerate the preliminary bending of the glass sheet.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In [[a]] another mode of the present invention, it is preferable that the means for controlling an amount of preliminary bending comprises an outer frame unit including a fixed frame and a movable frame pivoted on the fixed frame, and an inner frame/flat member provided on an inner peripheral side of the outer frame unit and having a flatter shape than the outer frame unit; whereby the glass sheet is transferred onto the outer frame unit after having been put on the inner frame/flat member, and the movable frame is tilted about a portion of the fixed frame with the movable frame pivoted thereon to ~~raises~~ raise an end of the heated and softened glass sheet, thus accelerating the preliminary bending of the glass sheet.

Please insert the following heading at page 11, between prenumbered lines 3 and 4:

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[[10:]] In the figures are shown a bending apparatus 10, [[12:]] a heating furnace 12, [[14:]] a positioning zone 14, [[16:]] a bending furnace 16, [[18:]] an air-cooling and tempering zone 18, [[20:]] a discharge roller conveyer 20, [[34:]] a frame 34, [[56:]] a lower mold 56, [[56A:]] a hole 56A, [[58:]] an upper mold 58, [[58A:]] a hole 58A, [[70:]] an air-cooling and tempering unit 70, [[72:]] a quench ring 72, [[74:]] a catch member 74, [[76:]] an upper blowing head 76, [[78:]] a lower blowing head 78, [[80:]] an air-floating unit 80, ~~170,~~ ~~180 and 190:~~ a heater 170, 180 and 190, [[200:]] a frame unit 200, [[G:]] and a glass sheet G.

Please delete the heading at page 11, line 12.